12.

(3.)

THE FRENCH KING'S EDICT

Upon the

DECLARATION

Made by the

Clergy of FRANCE,

Of their Opinion concerning the Eccleſiaſtical Power.

Wherein is ſet forth,

That the King is Independent in Things Temporal.
That General Councils are above the Pope.
That the Popes Power is to be limited by the Antient Canons.
That the Popes Deciſions are not Infallible without the Conſent of the Church.

Together with the ſaid

Declaration of the CLERGY,

As they were Regiſtred in the *PARLIAMENT* of *PARIS*, the 23 of *March* 1682.

LONDON, Printed in the Year 1682.

The KING's Edict, upon the Declaration made by the Clergy of France, of their Opinion concerning the Eccleſiaſtical Power.

LOVIS By the Grace of GOD, King of *France* and of *Navarre*, To all preſent and to come, Greeting. Although it be a certain and unconteſted Truth, Eſtabliſhed upon the Words of Chriſt Himſelf, That Our Crown is Independent of any Power but that of *GOD* alone; We have however received with Satisfaction the Declaration which the Deputies of the Clergy of *France*, Aſſembled by Our Permiſſion in our good City of *Paris*, have Preſented to Us, containing their Opinion touching the Eccleſiaſtical Power: And We have ſo much the more willingly hearkened to the Requeſt which the ſaid Deputies have made to Us, to cauſe the ſaid Declaration to be Publiſhed, for that, it being made by an Aſſembly compoſed of ſo many Perſons equally recommendable for their Virtue and Learning, and who have with ſo much Zeal employed themſelves in whatever may be of Advantage to the Church, and Our Service, the Wiſdom and Moderation with which they have expreſſed the Opinion that ought to be had on this Subject, may very much contribute to the confirming Our Subjects in the Reſpect, which they, as well as We, ought to have for the Authority which God has given to the Church, and to the taking away, at the ſame time from the Miniſters of the pretended Reformed Religion the Pretext they take, from the Books of ſome Authors, to render the Power of the Viſible Head of the Church, and the Center of Eccleſiaſtical Unity,

Odious. For these Causes, and other good and weighty Considerations, Us thereunto moving, after having caused the said Declaration to be examined in Our Council, We have by this Our present, perpetual, and irrevocable Edict, Said, Established and Ordained, do Say, Establish and Ordain, We Will, and it pleaseth Us, That the said Declaration of the Opinion of the Clergy concerning the Ecclesiastical Power, hereunto affixed, under the Seal of Our Chancery, be Registred in all Our Courts of Parlement, Bailliwicks, Senechalsies, Universities and Faculties of Divinity, and the Canon Law, in Our Kingdom, Countries, Lands, and Siegneuries under Our Obedience.

I.

WE forbid all Our Subjects, and all Strangers being in Our Kingdom, as well Seculars as Regulars, of what Order, Congregation, or Society they are, to teach in their Houses, Colledges, or Seminaries, or to write any thing contrary to the Doctrine contained in the same.

II.

We Command that those which shall for the future be chosen to teach Divinity in the Colledges of every University, whether they be Seculars or Regulars, shall before they perform that Function in the Colledges or Houses Secular or Regular, subscribe the said Declaration in the Registries of the Faculties of Divinity, and promise to teach the Doctrine therein contained; and that the Syndics of the Faculties of Divinity shall Present to the Ordinaries of the Places, and to the Attornies General, Copies of the said Subscriptions, Signed by the Registers of the said Faculties.

III.

That in all the Colledges and Houses of the said Universities, where there shall be many Professors, whether Seculars or Regulars, One of them shall be obliged every year to teach the Doctrine

Doctrine contained in the ſaid Declaration; and in the Colledges where there ſhall be only one Profeſſor, he ſhall be obliged to teach the ſame every third year.

IV.

We Command the Syndics of the Faculty of Divinity to preſent every Year, before the Opening of the Lectures, to the Archbiſhops or Biſhops of the Places where they are Eſtabliſhed, and to ſend to Our Atturnies General the Names of the Profeſſors who ſhall have the charge of teaching the ſaid Doctrine; and We Command the ſaid Profeſſors to preſent to the ſaid Prelates, and to Our Atturnies General the Writings which they ſhall dictate to their Scholars, when they ſhall be by them thereto required.

V.

We Will, That no Batchelor, whether Secular or Regular, ſhall for the future be Licenſed in Divinity, or the Canon Law, nor received a Doctor, till he has maintained the ſaid Doctrine in one of his Theſes, which he ſhall make appear to thoſe that have right of conferring the ſaid Degrees in the Univerſities.

VI.

We Exhort, and alſo Enjoyn all Archbiſhops, and Biſhops of Our Kingdom, Countries, Lands, and Seigneuries under Our Obedience, to employ their Authority in cauſing the Doctrine contained in the ſaid Declaration of the ſaid Deputies of the Clergy to be taught in their Dioceſes.

VII.

We Command the Deans, and Syndics of the Faculties of Divinity, to take care of the Execution of theſe Preſents, on pain of anſwering the contrary in their own and private Capacities.

So We give in Charge to Our Well-beloved and Truſty holding Our Courts of Parlement, that they cauſe theſe Our preſent Letters, in form of an Edict, to be Read, Publiſhed, and Regiſtred, together with the ſaid Declaration of the Clergy, in the Regiſtries of Our ſaid Courts, Bailliwicks, Senechalſies, and Univerſities within their Juriſdiction, and that they ſee the ſame obſerved, without ſuffering any contravention therein directly or indirectly; and that they proceed againſt the Offenders in ſuch manner as they ſhall think fit, according to the Exigency of the caſe; for ſuch is Our Pleaſure. And that the ſame may remain firm and eſtabliſhed for ever, We have cauſed Our Seal to be put to theſe Preſents.

Given at *St. Germains in Laye*, in the Month of *March*, in the Year of *Grace* 1682. and of Our Reign the 39th.

Signed *LOUIS*;

And lower, *By the* KING, *COLBERT*; *VISA*, *le* TELLIER, and Sealed with the Great Seal on Green-Wax.

Regiſtred, *The Atturney-General being heard, and requiring it, that they may be put in Execution, according to their Form and Tenor, purſuant to the Order of this Day. At* Paris *in Parlement, the* 23 *of* March 1682.
Signed DONGOIS.

The Declaration of the Clergy of *France*, concerning the Eccleſiaſtical Power.

MAny there are who endeavour to invade the Decrees and Liberties of the Gallican Church (with ſo much Zeal contended for by our Anceſtors) and even to undermine the Foundation of them, which is Built upon the Holy Canons, and the Tradition of the Fathers; nor are thoſe wanting, who under pretence of thoſe Liberties, are not affraid to leſſen the Supremacy of St. Peter, *and his Succeſſors, the Popes of* Rome, *Inſtituted by Chriſt, the Obedience due to them from all Chriſtians, and the Majeſty of the Apoſtolick See (revered by all People) wherein the Faith is Preached, and*

and the Unity of the Church preserved. Neither do the Heretick omit any thing, whereby they may render the Power, by which the Peace of the Church is preserved, grievous and odious to Princes and their Subjects, and by these Frauds they withdraw the Simple from the Communion of their Mother the Church, and of Christ: To prevent which Evils, we the Arch-Bishops, and Bishops, met at Paris *by the King's Command, representing the Gallicane Church, with other Ecclesiastical Persons, deputed together with us, have after Mature Deliberation, thought fit that the following Articles should be Established and Declared.*

I.

That the Power of things Spiritual, and such as belong to our Eternal Salvation, was given by God to St. Peter, *and his Successors Christ Vicars, and to his Church, but not that of things Civil and Temporal: Our Lord saying,* My Kingdom is not of this World. *And again,* Render therefore unto *Cæsar* the things that are *Cæsar's*, and unto God the things that are Gods. *And this is meant by the Words of the Apostle,* Let every Soul be subject to the Higher Powers; For all Power is from God, and all Powers are Ordained by God: He therefore that resisteth, resisteth the Ordinance of God. *That therefore Kings and Princes are not, by the Command of God, subject in things Temporal, to any Ecclesiastical Power, neither can they directly, or indirectly, be Deposed by the Power of the Keys of the Church, nor their Subjects be freed from their Duty and Obedience, and Oath of Allegiance. And that this Opinion necessary for the Publick Peace, and no less useful to the Church than the State, is to be Maintained as altogether agreeable to the Word of God, the Tradition of the Fathers, and the Examples of the Saints.*

II.

But that this full Power of things Spiritual, is so in the Apostolick See, and St. Peter's *Successors, the Vicars of Christ, as that withall the Decrees of the Holy Oeconomical Council of* Constans, *made in the* 4th *and* 5th *Sessions, concerning the Authority of General Councils, which have been Approved by the Apostolick See, and Confirmed*

Confirmed by the Practice of the Popes of Rome, *and of the whole Church, and always Religiously observed by the Gallican Church, are in full Force, and continue unalterable. And that the Gallican Church condemns those that would take from the force of those Decrees, as if their Authority was doubted, or less approved, or would apply them only to the times of Schisms.*

III.

That therefore the use of this Apostolick Power, is to be Moderated by the Canons, made by the Spirit of God, and Consecrated by the Reverence of the whole World. That likewise the Orders, Customes, and Statutes, received by the Crown and the Galicane Church, are of Force; and that the Bounds fixed by the Fathers, ought to remain unremoved; and that it concerns the Greatness of the Apostolick See, that the Statutes and Customes, confirmed by the consent of so great a See, and of the whole Church, should be Established upon a firm Foundation.

IV.

That in Questions concerning Faith, the Pope has the chief part, and that all and singular Churches are concerned in his Decrees; But that however his Decisions are not unreformable without the consent of the Church.

V.

Which Doctrines we having received from the Fathers, do Decree to be sent to all the Gallicane Churches, and to the Bishops by the Holy Spirit presiding over them; that we may all say the same thing, and be all of the same Mind.

Signed by
The Arch-Bishop of *Paris*, President.
The Arch-Bishop of *Rheims*.
Six other Arch-Bishops.
By 26 Bishops, and the rest of the Deputies of the Clergy.

Registred in the Parliament of *Paris*, the 23 of *March*, 1682.

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